so far; indicating the number of casualities involved and the compensation paid to victims and their relatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. On 14.5.1996, at 13.25 hrs. PP-4 Kayankulam-Ernakulam Passenger train dashed against a Bus at unmaned level crossing between Haripad and Kayankulam stations of Trivandrum division of Southern Railway. The accident occurred due to negligence on the part of driver of Bus who tried to cross the level crossing in the face of approaching train.

(c) The following arrangements exist at the unmanned level crossing in question to avert such accidents :—

i) Road signs are provided on the both sides at unmanned level crossing to warn road users.

ii) Speed breakers are provided to check the speed of road vehicles approaching towards the level crossing.

iii) Whistle Boards are provided on the both sides alongside the track to enable the trains driver to whistle and in this case the engine driver sounded the Whistle/Horn continously while crossing the level crossing.

iv) The level crossing is on the straight and its visibility was quite clear.

(d) The comparative figures of level crossing accidents on Southern Railway during 1994, 1995 and 1996 and casualities involved therein are as under :—

i) Year	No. of level crossing accidents
1994	13
1995	21
1996 (Upto June'96)	6

ii) Year	Killed	Grievous injury	Minor injury
1994	17	5	9
1995	17	5	16
1996 (Upto June' 96)	42	13	5

No compensation is paid to the victims in case of unmanned level crossing accidents.

Project report of the Cogentrix Power Project

638. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have examined the project report of the Cogentrix Power Project in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the objection raised in the examination report;

(c) whether Government have cleared the project; and

(d) if so, the reasons for withdrawing the objections and the date of clearance given to the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (CAPT. JAI NARAIN PRASAD NISHAD) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Report Environmental Impact Assessment Report for the proposed 1000 MW Thermal Power Project at Nandikur, Karnataka by M/s. Magalore Power Company was examined by the Expert Committee for Thermal Power Project constituted by the Ministry. Clarifications were sougth on use of sea water for cooling, installation of flue gas desulphurisation plant for control of sulphurdioxide emissions, so as to minimise adverse impact on the Western Ghats, rehabilitation of project affected persons, coal transportation, fly ash utilisation and thermal discharges into the sea, etc.

(c) and (d) Having satisfied itself with the proposed environmental safeguards to be provided in the project, the Committee recommended clearance for the project. The project was accorded environmental clearance on 11th June, 1996 stipulating various mitigative measures required for environmental protection.

Drought in Kachh Saurashtra Region

639. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether scarcity conditions still prevail in many areas affected by drought in Kachh Saurashtra region;